

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's Office Action dated July 25, 2003, in which claims 1, 2, 16, 17 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasutake et al. (USPN 6094972) in view of Applicant's Statement in view of Volcker (USPN 5986262).

Applicants also acknowledge that the dependent claims 3-15, 18-32 and 34-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim upon which each depends and any intervening claims.

To overcome the Examiner's rejection and objection, claims 1, 2, 16, 17 and 33 have been cancelled from further prosecution, and claims 3, 18 and 34 have been amended to include all of the limitations in the canceled claims 1 and 2; 16 and 17; and 33, respectively.

Applicant believes that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicant now respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objections be withdrawn; and that claims 3-15, 18-32 and 34-40 be allowed as amended.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims an/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested

the case be passed to issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted  
For applicants,

Dated: October 24, 2003

By:   
Eugene Lieberstein  
Registration No. 24,645

ANDERSON KILL & OLICK, P.C.  
1251 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10020-1182  
(212) 278-1000

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to : M/S Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 24, 2003.

Audrey De Souza (Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

 (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)